

Application No. 10/707,526
Docket No. A3-1700
Amendment dated February 22, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 22, 2007

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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner advised that the rejection of claims 1, 6, and 7 had been maintained and the rejection of claims 8, 9, 14, 18, and 19 had been reversed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, and in response claim 1 had been canceled and Applicants were required to present dependent claims 8 and 9 in independent form. As indicated above, Applicants identify claims 1, 6, and 7 as canceled (without prejudice), and have rewritten claim 8 in independent form by incorporating all limitations of its parent claim 1. Because claim 9 depends from claim 8, claim 9 has not been rewritten in independent form. In addition, dependent claims 2, 3, 4, and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 8 instead of canceled claim 1, since these claims now properly depend from independent claim 8 as a result of all limitations of claim 1 being incorporated into claim 8.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner advised that withdrawn claims 2-5, 10-13, 15-17, and 20 may be rejoined if claim 8 (in independent form) and claim 14 are generic to all species. In response, Applicants respectfully believe that independent claims 8 and 14 are both generic to Species A, B, C, D, E, F, and H (as identified in the Office Action of October 20, 2004 (Paper No. 10192004)), which dependent claims 2-5, 10, 11, 15-17, and 20 read on, but

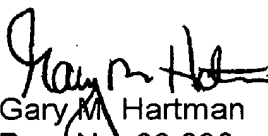
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are not generic to Specie G (as identified in the Office Action of October 20, 2004 (Paper No. 10192004)), which dependent claims 12 and 13 read on.

Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 2-5, 10, 11, 15-17, and 20 should be rejoined.

Applicants respectfully request that their patent application be given favorable reconsideration. Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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